



MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPENS NEW SATELLITE OFFICE TO ACCOMMODATE HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES IN MEMPHIS

- WHAT:** Due to the large number of Hurricane Katrina refugees in the Shelby County area, the Tennessee Department of Human Services has opened a satellite county office in Memphis to assist those families applying for emergency services. DHS staff will take applications from Hurricane Katrina victims for the emergency Families First EASE program as well as the expedited Food Stamp program at a new temporary office.
- WHEN:** Beginning Thursday, September 8
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** 1909 Third Street (Southgate Shopping Center at the corner of Third Street and Belz Road)
*****Katrina evacuees can continue seeking services at the South Memphis DHS office located on 3360 South Third Street*****
- MORE:** DHS is working to quickly serve the needs of those families with children impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The Families First EASE program is a new emergency program that allows a one-time cash assistance payment to qualifying evacuee families and children. The expedited Food Stamp program entails potential recipients filling out applications and undergoing a brief interview with DHS staff to verify eligibility. Applicants will receive a temporary Food Stamp card with benefits on it and should receive their permanent Food Stamp cards within a few days of applying.
The State of Tennessee is carefully coordinating its response to the fallout from Hurricane Katrina. Governor Bredesen has asked all departments and agencies in state government to work closely together to provide help and services to evacuees who are coming to Tennessee. Regular briefings on Tennessee's response to Hurricane Katrina are available through the Governor's office at 615.741.3763.

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